

some options. We ought to know what those options are and we will talk more about those options a little later when we get to the main part of this issue. But this one is, raise taxes and that is what you get to vote for, raise taxes if you want to do anything else but give state government and the University more money. Those are the only people that are allowed to eat at the table this year, last year and the year before that and the year before that.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: I think it is interesting that it is not always the quality of the rhetoric delivered but the way it is delivered. David does a magnificent job. David, Senator Newell, I just in my presentation on state employees' salaries last year said, the state employees had no salary raise. The subdivisions had salary raises. Our aid to local governments did provide some money that they, in fact, could allow salary raises to subdivisions while our state employees went without them. What happened to operations? Did we have operations increase last year? Did we have anything for operations at state level last year? Zero. Fine. All right, I think that Senator Kilgarin has done a magnificent job in presenting this to you because she is recognizing factors out there that we cannot deal with. We have also recognized that there are things on the floor of the Legislature that we cannot preempt nor should we as an Appropriations Committee preempt. We are leaving those to you. We have come to you with a preliminary budget. When you go shopping...now I know some people go shopping and they buy the first thing they see, but when you go shopping and you have so much money to spend, you look at all the options and you may adjust afterwards. Maybe you decide the first thing you saw wasn't quite what met your specifications. Maybe something comes up and you have to readjust. That is what we are doing this morning. State government has not had everything met in the last couple of years and so I think that that is completely off the basis of this amendment. I would ask you to support Senator Kilgarin's amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, do you wish to speak on this